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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/665,001	09/22/2003	Shinichiro Koto	243003US-2SRDCONT	4606
22850	7590	08/02/2007	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.			HUBER, JEREMIAH C	
1940 DUKE STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			2621	
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/02/2007		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/665,001	KOTO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jeremiah C. Huber	2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2007.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 27 and 28 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 27 and 28 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 22 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date Multiple.

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Priority***

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Astle (5703966) in view of Kato (6415055) for the same reasons set forth in the office action dated 12/27/20006.

In regard to claim 27 Astle discloses a method for encoding and decoding video including:

receiving encoded motion vector data, encoded predictive mode information, and an encoded prediction error signal (Astle Fig. 2 note receiver receiving encoded signals);

selecting, in accordance with the motion vector data and the predictive mode information, one from (a) generation of a predictive macroblock from a specific reference frame of the plurality of reference frames, (b) generation of a plurality of macroblocks from the plurality of frames so as to generate an average value of the

plurality of reference frames as a predictive macroblock, or (c) generation of a predictive macroblock by a linear extrapolation prediction or linear interpolation prediction (Astle Fig. 4 and col. 8 line 40 to col. 9 line 13 note Astle discloses that a B macroblock can be predicted from (a) a specific one of a forward and backward reference, or (b) the average of the forward and backward reference, also col. 11 line 63 to col. 12 line 8 discloses (c) macroblocks interpolated at intervals between the forward and backward references other than halfway between which is linear interpolation) ; and generating a decoded frame by adding the generated predictive macroblock and the predictive error signal (Astle col. 8 lines 50 to 55).

Astle further discloses transmitting predictive mode information (Astle col. 8 lines 50 to 55). It is noted that Astle does not disclose details including first and second flags. However, the use of flags to indicate coding modes was common and notoriously well known in the art at the time of the invention, as an example Kato discloses transmitting a motion compensation mode 'flag' and an error flag to indicate using either a specific reference, or a bidirectional average (Kato col. 21 line 1 to col. 22 line 5). It is therefore considered obvious that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the advantage of using flags to indicate the encoding mode in Astle as was well known in the art, in order to communicate the coding mode in a manner that requires little computation to decode.

In regard to claim 28 refer to the statements made in the rejection of claim 27 above.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 4/23/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the applicant's arguments made in regard to claims 27 and 28 the applicant asserts that Astle in view of Kato fails to disclose the claimed invention because the flags of Kato do not correspond to the claimed flags (data). The examiner must respectfully disagree. The applicant seems to be arguing against the Kato reference individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). In this case Astle is relied upon as disclosure for use of different prediction modes disclosed by the claims (Astle Fig. 4 and col. 8 line 40 to col. 9 line 13 also col. 11 line 63 to col. 12 line 8). Kato is used merely to show that it was well known in the art at the time of the invention to use flags to indicate a prediction mode, which is a coding mode, as is claimed.

***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeremiah C. Huber whose telephone number is (571)272-5248. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571)272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jeremiah C Huber  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2621

*Mehrdad Dastouri*  
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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TC 2600